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Russian Accusation

Krimsky Tied To CIA

By JIM SKOWRONSKI

ROXBURY —A Russian publication charged Tuesday that George A. Krimsky, Moscow-based correspondent for the Associated Press, moonlights for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Krimsky, 34, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Krimsky of Roxbury and a former assistant state news editor for The Republican.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman denied the charges, saying no journalist in Moscow has any contact with the intelligence organization.

He was one of three American journalists accused of working for the CIA in an article published in the "Literary Gazette," the official organ of the Soviet Writers' Union, according to an AP dispatch from Moscow.

The publication also named Christopher Wren, bureau chief for the New York Times and Alfred Friendly Jr., correspondent for Newsweek magazine.

The AP termed the publication's charge, "ridiculous," while Krimsky's father added it was "absolutely ridiculous."

Krimsky is in Moscow with his wife, Paula (Gibson) Krimsky, formerly of Washington, Conn., and his daughter, Alissa, born last December.

The AP reported no action against the journalists.

The weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta said it had letters that "concretely and convincingly described the hostile, subversive activity of these correspondents in plain clothes."

Apart from saying the letters came from Moscow, Tbilisi and Tallin, the newspaper gave no indication who had written them or what they purportedly said. It offered no evidence to support its accusations.

Evidently alluding to espionage, the newspaper said, "the letters spoke about the heightened interest of these correspondents in certain information and objects which exceeded the framework of the journalist's profession."

"The accusation is totally fabricated," Wren said.

Krimsky said his company's policy did not allow him to comment. Friendly was traveling in central Asia and unavailable for comment.

The New York Times, in a statement issued in New York based on Wren's denial and two letters to the newspaper from CIA chief George Bush earlier this year, said "the Times emphatically denies the charges."

It was the first time in memory that the Soviets accused an American journalist living in Moscow of being connected with the CIA. Diplomats saw the attack as a reflection of the strained state of Soviet-American relations.

A spokesman for TASS, the official Soviet news agency, reached by The Republican in New York, said the story on the three U.S. journalists had not been forwarded from Moscow on TASS' English-language wires.

The spokesman added that traditionally stories about Soviet governmental action against Americans has been forwarded from Moscow.

Krimsky's father said, in the absence of word from TASS, he felt the charge was "nothing but a fishing expedition."

Krimsky said his son visited the area four or five times last year, while his wife was living in Washington. He said his son received no phone calls or visits and "There was no evidence that I ever sniffed," that his son was working for anyone other than the AP.

According to the AP dispatch, the Soviet publication said Krimsky, Wren and Friendly were part of "a vast network of agents in the world of journalists."

Reacting to the report a Newsweek spokesman in New York said, "Newsweek correspondents work only for Newsweek."

Krimsky's father, who worked in the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II, said he is familiar with the workings of CIA-type agencies and scoffed at the idea his son was affiliated with the CIA.

"He is a dedicated journalist and he's only interested in journalism and getting a good story," Krimsky said.

"I presently think that this is a fishing expedition," he added.

Krimsky worked at The Republican during the late 1960's before joining the wire service.

Meanwhile in New York Tuesday, the National News Council announced it expects to meet with representatives of the CIA to discuss the agency's stance on the question of the employment of journalists.

Correspondence between the council and CIA Director George H. Bush led to the decision to call for a conference.

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